

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please amend the claims as follows. This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1 - 5. (Canceled)

6. (Previously Presented) A method for washing laundry in a process-controlled household washing machine comprising a wash liquid container for receiving laundry and wash liquid intended for washing the laundry, wherein a heating device and a temperature sensor are attached, wherein water for washing is poured into the wash liquid container during a filling phase and the temperature sensor delivers signals for the respective temperature of the water or the wash liquid to a process control system during a washing phase and said process control system derives commands for controlling the heating device for heating the wash liquid from the temperature signals and wherein a typical washing process runs at a temperature of the water or the wash liquid at the level of a standard value with a heating phase which begins with switching on the heating device, a mechanics phase during which mechanics are introduced as a result of rotations of the wash liquid container, and a post-wash phase without adding further heat energy, and lasts for a defined constant time from the beginning of switching on the heating device until the end of the post-wash phase, wherein:

the temperature of the water or the wash liquid is determined at or after the end of the filling with water;

that at a determined temperature of less than a standard value for the amount of water which has freshly run into the wash liquid container before the beginning of the washing process the heating device is switched on; and

that the beginning of the washing process is delayed by a defined time interval ( $t_{OK} - t_{OS}$ ) but from there on lasts the same time as the typical washing process and, during the time interval delay ( $t_{OK} - t_{OS}$ ), the wash liquid container is not subjected to mechanics phase during which mechanics are introduced as a result of rotations of the wash liquid container.

7. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 6, wherein the temperature is first determined during the filling with water or wash liquid and before or during switching off the heating device.

8. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 6, wherein the standard value lies in the range of 10°C to 15°C.

9. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 6, wherein the time interval ( $t_{OK} - t_{OS}$ ) is defined by reaching the standard value.

10. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 6, wherein the time interval ( $t_{OK} - t_{OS}$ ) has a pre-defined length.

11. (Currently Amended) A method for washing laundry in a washing machine comprising a process control system for controlling operation of the washing machine, a wash liquid container for receiving laundry and water, a heating device for heating the water within the wash liquid container, and a temperature sensor for detecting the temperature of the water, the method comprising the acts of:

- providing wash liquid to the wash liquid container during a filling phase of a given laundry handling cycle;

- detecting an initial temperature of the water with the temperature sensor;

- activating the heating device to heat the water during a heating phase;

- performing a delay phase if the temperature of the water is below a pre-determined standard value, the delay phase continuing until the temperature of the water reaches the standard value and, during the delay phase, the wash liquid container is not subjected to a mechanics treatment during which mechanics are introduced as a result of rotations of the wash liquid container;

- performing a washing phase and continuing the wash phase for a pre-determined period of time, the washing phase including subjecting laundry in the wash liquid container to a mechanics treatment during which mechanics are introduced as a result

of rotations of the wash liquid container, ~~the mechanics treatment being the first mechanics treatment to which the laundry has been subjected during the respective given laundry handling cycle and~~ the washing phase not commencing until the completion of the step of detecting an initial temperature of the water, the step of activating the heating device, and the step of performing a delay phase, if such a delay phase is to be performed;

turning off the heating device when the temperature of the water reaches a pre-determined washing temperature.

12. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 11, wherein the duration of the washing phase has a pre-defined length.

13. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 12, wherein the duration of the delay phase is variable in response to the period of time required for the temperature of the water to reach the standard value.

14. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 11, wherein the standard value is between about 10°C to 15°C.